

July 28, 2010

Committee on Ways and Means  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1102 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Social Security at 75 Years

Honorable Members of the Committee:

While I realize the Committee on Ways and Means is commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Social Security, I am writing to alert you that some of us lost our entitlement to this provision because of the government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision.

I dedicated almost 40 years to taking care of children. I taught for five years, was an at home mom for ten years, and then taught for another 22 years. I am divorced, living frugally on my pension, and working part-time. **I do not receive social security for the time that I worked outside of teaching.**

Though I am divorced (for 16 years), because of the Pension Offset Provision, currently **I am not entitled to receive social security that other divorced women are entitled to receive.** I understand it is half of what their ex-husbands receive. Do we not value women staying home to care for their children? Also, like many other wives, I worked without pay in the office at my husband's business and at his father's business, another reason we should be entitled to half of the amount that our ex-husband receives.

Public employees like educators, police officers, and firefighters should not suffer a penalty for dedicating their lives to public services. I urge Congress to move the Social Security Fairness Act forward for a vote. In addition, if Congress takes up overall social security reform, I urge inclusion of repeal of the GPO and WEP as part of any reform package.

Respectfully,

Cheryl Suzanne Douglas  
CA

